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REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Examiner Hill in considering and agreeing to this amendment. Permission for the amendments to the claims to delete the term "isolated" from modifying "host cells" was provided in a telephone call from Examiner Hill on February 4, 2005 and confirmed in the telephone conference on February 15, 2005. This Amendment recapitulates the substance of these telephone conferences.

The claims are also amended to recite proper dependency in light of their renumbering. Entry of the amendments outlined above is respectfully requested.

The above amendments to the claims are shown as compared to the claims as amended and renumbered in the Examiner's Amendment which accompanied the Notice of Allowability dated December 29, 2004. Claims 2-18 have been amended to correct dependency in accordance with renumbering of the claims. Claims 12-15 and 18 have been amended to delete recitation of the term "isolated". This recitation had been introduced by the Examiner's Amendment which accompanied the Notice of Allowability dated December 29, 2004. It was agreed that the claims as presently amended did not read on products of nature. Consequently, introduction of the limitation "isolated" in the Examiner's Amendment was not necessary.

No new subject matter has been added as a result of the amendments; no new search is required, and no new issues are raised. Inasmuch as the above amendments enter corrections of formal matters and do not affect the substance of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Patent and Trademark Office enters the amendments set forth above without withdrawing this application from allowance.

